

A photograph of the Houston skyline at night, with several skyscrapers illuminated by city lights against a dark sky. The title text is overlaid on this image.

What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

March 2010

CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION

February 23 – March 7 (Times vary)

Broadway Across America

From the creators of the groundbreaking BROADWAY HIT, Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy comes an all new journey of nighttime dreamers whose imaginations are ignited within a landscape of towering buildings and infinite possibilities. Created and Directed by Neil Goldberg, Cirque Dreams Illumination has been hailed as Dazzling!...a reason to stand up and cheer by the New York Daily News. Audiences of all ages will marvel and experience a journey of city dwellers who reinvent everyday objects, balance beyond belief, delicately dangle from wires, leap tall buildings and redefine the risks of flight in an array of astounding occurrences that transform the ordinary into extraordinary.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$24 - \$73

(800) 745-3000 / broadwayacrossamerica.com

LA BAYADÈRE ("THE TEMPLE DANCER")

February 25 – March 7 (Times vary)

Houston Ballet

The high point of Houston Ballet's fortieth anniversary season will be a spectacular new production of one of the great classical works of the nineteenth century repertoire, featuring choreography by Stanton Welch and lavish scenery and costumes by the celebrated English designer Peter Farmer. Set in the Royal India of the past, La Bayadère is a story of eternal love, mystery, fate, vengeance, and justice. The ballet relates the drama of a temple dancer (bayadère), Nikiya, who is loved by Solor, a noble warrior. She is also loved by the High Brahmin, but does not love him in return, as she does Solor.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$35 - \$160

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

JOHN BANVILLE & ABRAHAM VERGHESE

March 1 (7:30 pm)

Inprint

JOHN BANVILLE, hailed by The Economist as "Ireland's finest contemporary novelist," won the 2005 Man Booker Prize for his novel, The Sea. A prodigious author, Banville has written more than 20 books, including mysteries under the pen name Benjamin Black. The Sunday Telegraph says, "With his fastidious wit and exquisite style, John Banville is the heir to Nabokov." His other works include The Book of Evidence, which The New York Times Book Review calls "a disturbing little novel that might have been coughed up from hell," Eclipse, Shroud, The Untouchable, and many others; his Benjamin Black titles include Christine Falls and The Silver Swan. Banville will read from his eagerly anticipated new novel, The Infinities, a wholly unexpected lively, comical, and irreverent multi-generational family saga.

ABRAHAM VERGHESE, an Ethiopian-born South Asian physician, is the author of two highly acclaimed memoirs, My Own Country, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and The Tennis Partner, a New York Times Notable Book, of which Kaye Gibbons says, "It supersedes any memoir I've ever read. . . a wonderful examination of what it means to be alive." His newest work, Cutting for Stone, marks his transition from memoir to the novel, in a sprawling family epic set mostly in Ethiopia. Verghese is "something of a magician as a novelist," writes USA Today, adding that "Cutting for Stone is an underdog and a winner. Shades of Slumdog Millionaire." Simon Schama calls it "beautiful and deeply affecting." Verghese is currently a professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$5 (on sale February 8th)

(713) 521-2026 / inprinthouston.org

A LITTLE DAY MUSIC

March 3 (Noon)

Da Camera of Houston

A *Little Day Music* concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season. The March concert features the University of Houston Saxophone Quartet.

Wortham Center's Grand Foyer

Tickets: Free

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

NIGHT COURT TWENTY

March 4 (7:30 pm)

Join us for an evening of entertainment, remembrance, celebration and laughter as Night Court, Houston's all-lawyer theatre company, turns 20. The one-night-only event will compile the best of the best from the past two decades of original stage shows. Featuring both live performances and video-taped highlights, Night Court Twenty will include special appearances from past performers and sneak preview of coming attractions and like any Night Court performance, plenty of surprises and lots of laughter. Proceeds from the event benefit the charitable works of the Houston Bar Foundation and other local charities. It's one night two decades in the making that you won't want to miss.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$26.25

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org

MOZART'S REQUIEM

March 5-7 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Hans Graf served as music director of the Mozarteum Orchester in Salzburg for a decade. Hear this exquisite Mozart interpreter conduct Mozart's final and possibly most profound statement.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE 39 STEPS

March 5-28 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. This two-time Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 eccentric characters – played by a prodigiously talented cast of four – an on-stage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers and some good old-fashioned romance. In *The 39 Steps*, a man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. When he takes her home, she is murdered. Soon, a mysterious organization called "The 39 Steps" is hot on the man's trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a death-defying finale. A riotous blend of virtuoso performances and wildly inventive stagecraft, *The 39 Steps* amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure. *The 39 Steps* is currently the longest running comedy on Broadway and ideal for audiences of all ages. *Recommended for general audiences.*

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$70

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

CELEBRATION OF VISION

March 7 (5:00 pm)

Texas Medical Center Orchestra

Uri Pianka, Violin

Vision is vital to create and nurture a collection of musicians devoted to high standards of performance as well as local medicinal charities

Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite best symbolizes vision: the Grand Canyon is so inspiring that its vastness can only be captured through breadth of vision. With this concert TMCO celebrates the vision required to express the improbable and infinite.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$10 - \$20

tmcorchestra.org

SPRING DANCE FUSION

March 7 (3:00 pm)

Uptown Dance Centre

SPRING DANCE FUSION is a contemporary and classical ballet, jazz and modern infused dance concert featuring the premiere of Gullledge-Brown's new work, Say What, a quirky, jazz piece set to the music of Sting. Gullledge-Brown also presents a premier, Rendition, a contemporary ballet. Ceclia Marta, famed Panamanian born choreographer from New York, introduces a contemporary jazz premier work. Max Stone presents a striking and powerful modern piece. Houston Ballet's Alex Pandiscio is premiering a ballet piece on Uptown Dance Company II to round out the evening.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$26.25 - \$56.25

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org or uptowndancecentre.com

SOUTH PACIFIC

March 9-21 (Times vary)

Theatre Under the Stars

WINNER! SEVEN 2008 TONY AWARDS® INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL

"Simply Wonderful! Beguiling Theatrical Magic!" hails the *New York Post* for the stunning reinvention of Rodgers & Hammerstein's SOUTH PACIFIC produced by Lincoln Center Theater. SOUTH PACIFIC swept the 2008 Tony Awards®, winning seven honors including Best Musical Revival and Best Director for Bartlett Sher. This lavish new production features a cast of 34 and a full orchestra of 26 members - the largest orchestra of any touring Broadway production. Set on a tropical island during World War II, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices. The beloved score's songs include "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair," "This Nearly Was Mine" and "There is Nothin' Like a Dame."

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: Start at \$24

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

AMERICAN AT HEART

March 11-21 (Times vary)

Houston Ballet

Set to a rousing score by Leonard Bernstein, Fancy Free depicts the adventures of three sailors on shore leave who meet two girls on a hot summer night in New York City in the 1940s. An American classic, Fancy Free was later developed into the hit musical On The Town. A seminal piece in the history of twentieth century ballet, George Balanchine's Apollo traces the birth of the god of music, poetry and prophecy -- and his education through (and flirtation with) the three muses Terpsichore, Calliope, and Polyhymnia. Christopher Bruce's comic and moving Hush chronicles the adventures of a family of performers, and is set to a musical celebration of life -- from youth to old age -- by Yo-Yo Ma and Bobby McFerrin.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$35 - \$160

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

DAVID GRAY

March 11 (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$37.50 - \$42.50

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

SHREYA GHOSHAL

March 13 (8:00 pm)

Indo-American Association

A Bollywood Extravaganza

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$17 - \$92

(281) 648-0422 / iaahouston.com

PLAYGROUND OF LOVE

March 13 (4:00 pm)

Shamelessly Saved Productions

Audiences can't stay off the playground! Back by popular demand, Shamelessly Saved Productions presents *Playground of Love* based on the successful book.

The compelling stage play tell the plight of three teenagers who are enticed to play on the devil's playground of his so-called love for them, the intimate choices they make and how it influences their lives. It's the saga of teenagers searching for love from all the wrong places and the mistakes that come from the choices.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$35 - \$50

(832) 729-4849 / shamelesslysaved.com

38th ANNUAL BUFFALO BAYOU REGATTA

March 13 (11:00 am)

Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Test your endurance in Texas' largest kayak and canoe race! Whether you paddle competitively or just for fun, the Buffalo Bayou Regatta is a great way to see Houston from a whole new angle. Join in the fun at the 35th annual 15-mile canoe and kayak race through the heart of our city. Prizes for kayakers, canoers, Corporate Cup, Scout Challenge Cup and Styrofoam Cup winners!

Not a paddler? Catch the fun and cheer on the racers at the Finish Line! Activities will include music, an icehouse with food and drinks and local outdoor organization booths.

Sesquicentennial Park

Tickets: \$40

(713) 752-0314 / buffalobayou.org

MARIACHI INVITATIONAL

March 13 (6:30 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$22.50 - \$32.50

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

HANNU LINTU CONDUCTS SIBELIUS 2

March 18-21 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Lintu electrified Houston audiences in May 2008. Experience the poetic soundscapes, relentless drumbeat and volcanic climaxes of his fellow Scandinavian's music.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houston-symphony.org

THE BEACH BOYS

March 19 (7:30 pm)

Houston Symphony

Surf's up! Hit the California beach as the sun-soaked harmonies of The Beach Boys join the Houston Symphony for an evening of classic songs like "Barbara Ann," "Wouldn't It Be Nice," "Surfin' U.S.A.," "California Girls" and "Kokomo."

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$36 - \$130

(713) 224-7575 / houston-symphony.org

BRANDON LEE QUINTET

March 20 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

The talented trumpeter and graduate of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts makes his Da Camera debut on the heels of the release of his debut album, *From Within*. The youngest faculty member in the jazz studies program at The Juilliard School, Brandon Lee has performed with Benny Golson, Clark Terry, Wynton Marsalis, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Wycliffe Gordon, Hank Jones, Ray Brown, Eddie Henderson and Lewis Nash.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$30 - \$50

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

SPRINGTIME IN PARIS

March 20 (7:30 pm)

Ars Lyrica

The earthiness of Baroque oboe and the sweetness of the Baroque violin evoke the soft breezes and fragrant blossoms of a French garden in spring. Transport yourself to Paris with this concert of French Baroque chamber works for voices and instruments.

Virtuoso oboist Kathryn Montoya returns to perform with the ensemble, joined by two internationally renowned stars of the early music scene: violinist Marc Destrube and mezzo-soprano Jennifer Lane.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$31.25 - \$41.25

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org or arslyricahouston.org

SECOND SATURDAY BOAT CRUISE

March 20 (10:00 am)

Buffalo Bayou Partnership

These 30-minute boat rides are a great way to spend the afternoon with your family. Escape from the city and enjoy the cool breeze as you glide along the bayou's waters. Look for graceful herons, jumping fish, and even the occasional alligator sunning on the bayou's banks. After your cruise, enjoy a picnic lunch on the Sabine Promenade grounds.

No reservations necessary (20 person capacity per trip). Boat picks up at Sabine Street Bridge North Boat Landing. Children under 4 are not permitted.

Sabine Promenade

Tickets: \$5 - \$7 (cash only)

(713) 752-0314 / buffalobayou.org

TRACY KIDDER

March 22 (7:30 pm)

Inprint

TRACY KIDDER, a master of the non-fiction narrative, won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Soul of a New Machine*. Kidder combines award-winning reportorial skill with what one New York Times Book Review critic describes as "the author's genuine love, delight, and celebration of the human condition." He has written nine books of nonfiction, including *House*, *Among Schoolchildren*, *Old Friends*, *Home Town* and *My Detachment*, Kidder's personal account of his time as a soldier in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. Of his highly acclaimed book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, author Thom Jones writes, "Mountains is the sort of book that makes you want to buy a hundred copies and pass them out like a street corner evangelist." Kidder's newest book, *Strength in What Remains*, has been described as a book which will "resurrect your faith in the human spirit." It follows the story of Deogratias, a refugee from the civil war and genocide of 1990s Burundi, who makes his way to New York City. "Deo's story," says Alex Kotlowitz, "is remarkable, stunning really. His journey is the story of our times, one that keeps the rest of us from forgetting."

Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$5

(713) 521-2026 / inprintheouston.org

WE CAN'T STOP THE BEAT

March 23 (7:30 pm)

Bayou City Performing Arts

This high energy concert will feature music from all over the world with an emphasis on percussion and rhythmic beat – and dancing. Bayou City Chorale and special guests will even stomp by to help rev things up. From George Gershwin and The Glen Miller Band to "Hairspray" and beyond, we'll have you on your feet dancing and feeling the beat.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$55

(713) 521-7464 / bayoucityperformingarts.org

MEGADETH, TESTAMENT & EXODUS

March 25 (7:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$37.50 - \$42.50

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

JE' CARYOUS JOHNSON'S CHEAPER TO KEEP HER

March 25-28 (Times vary)

I'm Ready Productions

When a married couple is ready to call it quits, they always want different things. Raymond Mays wants a divorce and Morgan Mays wants alimony. When Raymond hires his best friend Joey to be his lawyer, and Morgan hires her catty cousin Koren as counsel, a legal boxing match explodes over their divorce. When the fed-up Judge bangs her gavel, she decides Morgan doesn't deserve half... she deserves it all. Morgan gets everything—the house, Raymond's retirement, and some would say even his self-esteem, leaving him with nothing but the thought; it would have been cheaper to keep her.

Determined not to be defeated, Raymond and his best friend discover they have two options to prevent him from paying alimony: kill Morgan or get her married off to someone else. When Morgan's first love, Brian Reynolds, sets his sights on sneaking back into her life, Raymond feels Brian is the perfect solution to his situation. Raymond's plan backfires when Brian's cockiness causes a competitive catastrophe forcing Raymond to confront his feelings, and to discover he still cares about his wife.

As ex-husband and ex-love face off with each other, broken hearts will get revenge, karma could kill, and infidelity can become infectious as hearts and marital matrimony collide only to discover whether it's cheaper to keep her or easier to love her as his wife.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$33.50 - \$55.50

(800) 745-3000 / ticketmaster.com

GILBERTO GIL

March 26 (8:00 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

Brazil's internationally acclaimed guitarist and vocalist and former Minister of Culture, Gilberto Gil brings his unique sound, incorporating an eclectic range of influences—from reggae, samba and forró to rock and African music—to Houston for one night only.

Gilberto Gil has developed one of the most relevant and renowned careers as a singer, composer and guitar-player in both world and pop music. In a career that has spanned four decades with over 30 albums released, Gil has six gold records, four platinum singles and five million records sold. The Tropicalist genre he introduced, alongside Caetano Veloso, has secured his fame internationally as well as at home in Brazil. His extensive and prolific catalogue of work has been covered and recorded by João Gilberto, Elis Regina, Gal Costa, Sérgio Mendes, Ernie Watts, and Toots Thielmans.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$57

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

THE ROMANTIC CELLO

March 26 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

Acclaimed worldwide as one of the leading cellists of his time, Steven Isserlis makes his Houston recital debut in a dramatic program evoking 100 years of romantic music. From 19th-century Romantics Chopin and Schumann — whose bicentennials Da Camera celebrates this season — to the 20th-century American composer Samuel Barber, born 100 years ago, we hear the passionate Romantic spirit masterfully expressed within the classical sonata form.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$25 - \$45

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

L'ESTRO ARMONICO: THE GENIUS OF HARMONY

March 27 (8:00 pm)

Mercury Baroque

Mercury Baroque's core strings —the heart of the ensemble- performs six of the twelve concertos from Vivaldi's L'Estro Armonico. Vivaldi's brilliant set of breathtaking concertos are the ultimate displays for the artistic mastery and virtuosity of Mercury Baroque's strings. The concertos feature one, two, or four solo violins and despite the possibly unfamiliar name, most of the pieces are highly recognizable as some of Vivaldi's finest and most popular compositions. Join us on March 27th, 2009 for an exciting performance of Vivaldi's L'Estro Armonico.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$47

(713) 533-0080 / mercurybaroque.org

MARVIN HAMLISCH & JOEL GREY IN CONCERT

March 27 (8:00 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

Legendary Broadway and film artists and former child performers—composer Marvin Hamlisch (The Way We Were and A Chorus Line) and actor Joel Grey (Cabaret)—team up for this one-of-a-kind concert experience.

The composer of the musicals A Chorus Line, They're Playing Our Song, The Goodbye Girl, and Sweet Smell of Success and films including The Way We Were, The Sting, Sophie's Choice, Ice Castles, and Bananas, Marvin Hamlisch has become the preeminent pops artist of our time. He has won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, three Emmys, a Tony, three Golden Globe awards and the Pulitzer Prize.

Academy and Tony Award-winner Joel Grey takes the audience on a virtual tour of his career — singing, dancing and story-telling — about shows like Cabaret, George M!, and Chicago, tells autobiographical tales regarding his father, the legendary Yiddish comedian Mickey Katz, and sings songs by Kander & Ebb, Rodgers and Hart, Billy Joel, and more. He considers the audience his co-star — in other words, you won't see a line of dancing girls behind him.

It's a natural for Joel Grey and Marvin Hamlisch to share the same stage, as their friendship goes back many years to when they worked together on the very first tour Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey tour in 1973. Here is your exclusive chance to join them for one special evening!

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$72

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

